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SACCE Steps In

Group To Propose School Changes

BOOKS & CHALK NOT ENOUGH

Proposals for major improvements in local public schools are being drawn up by the School Action Council for Capitol East.

The proposals will be presented to the SACCE membership at a meeting at 8:30 p.m. Sept. 15 in Christ Child Settlement House. A committee also will be selected at the meeting to prepare a slate of officers for the 1966-1967 term. Elections will be held at a meeting Oct. 13.

SACCE officers and committee members have been meeting with employees of the United States Department of Education and with other experts in the field to determine what kinds of programs might best benefit the children of Capitol East and where money might be obtained.

Edward L. Rogers, SACCE president, said that the proposals may include some which would radically alter the school system.

"Book and chalk drives are not enough," he said. "New approaches are needed."

The council also is engaged in a drive to find Capitol East residents who would be willing to serve as volunteers at local schools for one hour or more a week.

Volunteers are needed to help out in school libraries, help supervise playgrounds, to serve as teacher and counsellor aides, to tutor one or more children, and to lead extracurricular activities.

Interested residents may contact Pete Ward at 547-5477 or Gregory New at 544-5214. Their names will be turned over to the Urban Service Corps of the Board of Education, which runs the volunteer program, and to the principals of the schools at which they wish to work.

The SACCE executive board voted unanimously at its July meeting to support Home Rule for the District of Columbia and to conduct a letter writing and petitioning campaign in support of Rep. Edith Green's (D-Ore.) proposal for an elected school board.

Members collected more than 1,000 signatures in support of the proposal over a weekend and sent them to Rep.

The Gazette

The Capitol East Gazette is published monthly for the benefit of Washingtonians living in the area bordered by the North and South Capitol Sts. on the west, H St. on the north, 15th St. on the east and the Anacostia River on the south. The Gazette may be received by mail for \$2 a year. Or, if you live in Washington postal zone 2 or 3, you may subscribe to The Idler Magazine (see page 5) at \$3 a year and get The Gazette free. Letters to the editor, news items and advertising are welcomed.

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James A. Smith

The Gazette

413 6th St. NE

Washington 2, D.C.

546-9662

Green with accompanying letters to each member of the House Education and Labor Committee, which was to report on the bill.

Capeasters Seek Home Rule

More than forty local residents have volunteered as lobbyists for home rule. Right now they are busy calling on senators and senators' legislative assistants to get commitments of support for Senator Wayne Morse's proposed home rule amendment. The lobbyists feel that the Senate will accept the amendment thereby throwing the issue once again into the House of Representatives. That is where the big fight will come.

"One of the reasons the House did not support the Administration bill last time out," says Thomas Smith of the Capitol East Democratic Club, "was because the lobbying effort was in the hands of a very few persons. As a consequence many representatives came onto the floor unaware of what they were meant to vote for or against. That must not happen again. Every one of the 435 representatives must be called upon."

Smith says the lobbyists have received a "very positive reaction" from most of the senators contacted. In the Senate, he added, "we expect the same sort of margin we enjoyed last August in the home rule vote."

Smith hopes that their will be massive citizen participation in the lobbying effort. Anyone wishing to help may contact him at RE 7-3795 or LI 7-6032.

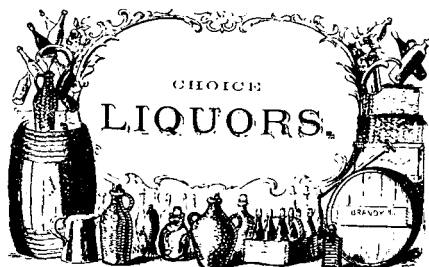
Food Needed at Center

The Friendship House Food and Clothing Center is running out of food again.

The center distributes some \$150 worth of non-perishable foods each week to needy families who have no other source of relief. The center's rent and staff salaries are paid with poverty program funds, but all food is received through contributions.

A citywide campaign during January's snow emergency brought thousands of dollars worth of food to the center, but the contributions have been just about used up.

Individuals who would like to contribute to the center or groups who would like to collect food weekly or monthly can contact Mrs. Eugene Krizek, LI 7-2714, or Friendship House, 547-8880.



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City's Litter Bit Doesn't Make It

By James A. Smith
Gazette Reporter

It seems ironic to hear of the massive campaign for litter bags in cars while little or no attention is paid to the real source of street litter; the pedestrian. While the driver lacking a wastebasket can throw a gooey ice cream paper wrapper on the floor of his car, the pedestrian must either find a basket — a rare item in residential Washington — or throw the wrapper in the gutter. He is certainly not going to put the sticky thing in his pocket until he passes upon a receptacle.

One might think the Department of Sanitation would catch on sooner or later that on a corner with several stores the need for litter receptacles will be greatest, since people tend to unwrap things — especially candy — upon leaving the premises. But in most of Washington, the trash receptacles are not placed with pedestrian traffic in mind.

For example, on one quiet residential northeast street there is a post-mounted receptacle in the middle of the block; but at the next corner — where there is a cafe, laudromat, grocery store, liquor store and dry cleaners — there is no receptacle at all. On the highly store-populated corner of 15th and Independence there is also no receptacle, and as a result the corner is perpetually littered. No wonder the area takes on a run-down look.

Poor judgement in locating receptacles is just one factor accounting for the poor quality of litter prevention in residential Washington. Another is the design of the receptacles which tends to

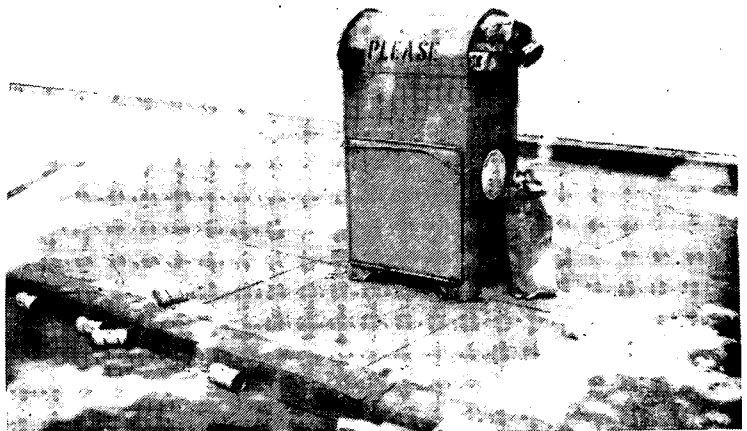
obscure them rather than bring them to the eyes of the potential litterer. The most obvious example is the post-mounted model which has the same shape and color as the control boxes on stop-light posts. Other boxes have the shape of a mailbox without the advantage of the mailbox's bright, attractive coloring. The trash box is, in fact, painted to be camouflaged in its surroundings.

Yet another problem is that trash is collected from these receptacles only once a week. (Because of their miscoloring and misplacement, they often take a full week to fill.) As a result of this infrequent collection, much used containers tend to become health hazards, since pedestrian trash is bound to include some garbage, and some people will abuse the receptacle and put household garbage in it. In the end, these receptacles are reported as health hazards, removed, and the gutter once again absorbs the difference.

What would seem to be called for, then, is the following: (1) A block by block re-evaluation of trash receptacle needs, (2) A redesigning and repainting of the receptacles to make them more obvious to the pedestrian, and (3) an expanded distribution of such barrels plus Monday-Wednesday-Friday emptying. Such a program might not even involve a substantially increased budget, since the Department of Sanitation is presently spending much money on street-sweepers to clean the gutters daily, and on men and automobiles to drive around supervising the sweepers.

Finally, it should be mentioned that there is a sharp difference between the Department's stated ("paper") strength and its actual operational strength. For example: While looking at the chart in the Department's office, I noted the map-tacks locating four receptacles closest to our office. Upon returning, I could locate only one of those.

OK, we filled it.
Who's going to
empty it?



Two Rooms

By R. P. Glenmore

Mr. Genmore is a 30-year-old participant in a local job training program. The following article was written after a tour of industrial sites in the Washington area.

After entering the garage at D. C. Transit, I stood in awe. The place was spotless; everything was immaculately clean. Where was the nauseating stench of oil? Where were the greasy trousers, the smudgy faces, the grimy hands and nails? This is a garage. Why, some of the restaurants I've frequented were not as orderly. Surely we're in the wrong place.

Then my eyes, still unbelieving, gazed upon an engine being repaired. Picture this if you can. There were two mechanics both wearing white shirts, well-creased trousers, manicured nails, and dazzling shines on their shoes, repairing an engine. The engine was meticulous, I was astonished because they forgot to adorn their white gloves to prevent the perspiration on their hands from marring the luster of the engine.

What kind of garage is this where the floors reflected your image better than mirrors? This is a mechanic's dream; this is Eden; this is Utopia; oh please, let me be a mechanic. But where are the minority groups? They're not hither, nor thither, nor yon. Surely they must have one of us sharing this gravy train, but where is he? Well I'll explore this haven further. I'm positive I'll find one somewhere basking in this wonderful edifice.

I could have remained in this superstructure with its climatic air control, its redolence, dulcitude, harmonious environment indefinitely until I found him.

The bubble deflated quickly when I stepped into a back room, for there he was: sweaty, grimy, decrepit, wracked with pain and fatigue, stuck in this tiny cubicle where they steam engines and transmissions; without the climatic air, without the unblemished floors, attired in filth-laden coveralls. There they were — the murky, vile, soiled engines and transmissions. Here was the stench of slimy oil, the grotesque forms of burnt carbon; this surely was not Eden — this was hell.

Unable to digest any more without crying foul, unjust, derogatory remarks; unable to stop the muscles in my stomach from tightening; unable to hold

back the tears that welled within; unable to flee though my mind wanted to — here I was transfixed, paralyzed, dumb-founded, unable to control my facilities. Upon regaining composure, I withdrew rapidly.

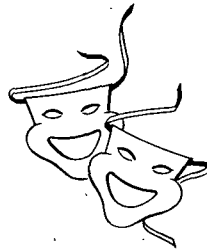
Letters

NEW THEATRE WAITS IN WINGS

In your review of the Southeast Players production of James Baldwin's play, "Blues for Mr. Charlie," there was a statement made about the need for live and legitimate theatre in the Capitol Hill area.

"The People's Theatre Club" would like to inform the editor, and the residents of the Capitol Hill area of an effort to bring to the Hill by the end of September, live and creative theatre.

Since the closing of "Blues for Mr. Charlie," interested and informed people have been meeting weekly to structure plans to open a semi-professional Acting Academy and The Theatre of The Living Arts. On August 19 and 20, a benefit will be held to raise funds for The People's Theatre Club's opening fall production at 1609 T Street SE. The People's Theatre Club includes people who are interested in seeing creative



talent developed, while adding beauty and enrichment to every human life. We are recruiting for a sound and imaginative technical production crew, who will work diligently, creatively and professionally in interpreting the following plays for the 1966-1967 season: "Blues for Mr. Charlie" (reopening), "A Taste of Honey," "The Dutchman," "A Day of Absence," "A Street Car Named Desire," "The Blacks," "Beyond The Fringe," "The Crucible," and "Becket."

We are looking forward to a good theatre season. Interested persons may call 581-8155 or 584-0432 (evenings).

Jay Williams, founder

The People's Theatre Club

East of the Dome

St. Cyprian's and Holy Comforter Churches will combine as one parish this month. **Father Burke** of St. Cyprian's said that the merger was due to a duplication of effort in the area, and also stated that the St. Cyprian's buildings were in such disrepair that it would cost too much to restore them. The St. Cyprian's congregation of approximately 2200 will make the change to Holy Comforter at 1357 East Capitol St. after final masses at St. Cyprian's on Sept. 18. The combined parish served by Holy Comforter beginning Sept. 24 will number about 2500 to 3000. No decision has been reached on the possible uses of the St. Cyprian's property at the 1242 C St., S.E.

Officers of the new South East Civic Association for the coming year are: President, **William H. Vines**; First Vice-president, **Mrs. Sarah Montgomery**; Second Vice-president, **Van Dyke Walker**; Recording Secretary, **Mrs. Gladys A. Ross**; Corresponding Secretary, **Mrs. Margie R. Wilber**; Financial Secretary, **Mrs. Creola Pinson**; Treasurer, **Alfred H. F. Selby**; Archivist, **Clara Boone**. The Board of Directors of the Association are **Charles B. Chandler**, **Oscar Frazier, Sr.**, **Mrs. Virginia Jenkins**, **Thomas Macke**, and **Mrs. Dorothy Walker**.

A call to the Police Department reveals that abandoned autos are presently being towed off of both public and private property at the rate of 8,000 per year. Moreover, we were told that there is a capacity of 12,000 per year under the present operation. It is also reported that many stationhouses are turning down requests for removal from private property "because we are out of the forms." To test this process, we reported four abandoned cars to the appropriate precinct (No. 5) and have waited to see how long it will be before they are removed. A quick check three weeks later, at press time revealed that the autos had not been touched—except by children. At this point we called No. 5 to ask what was up. They said that they are in fact removing 15 cars a week, but there is a three month backlog of requests.

The Boys' Club at 17th Street has a full schedule planned for its members for the coming fall and winter season. **Oliver Thompson**, the Eastern Branch's director, announces that the accent will be on enrichment programs, to complement the already complete athletic programs of the Club. The woodshop will be open again, the library will be expanded, there will be a program in remedial reading, classes for emotionally disturbed children, and affiliation with local glee clubs and other activities.

A jump in membership to 1500, with daily participation of over 300 makes this diversification possible, according to Mr. Thompson. In particular he is looking for group volunteer workers and greater cooperation between the Club and the D.C. General Hospital and the D.C. Health Department.

All activities will be limited to Club members, and membership costs only \$1.00 for boys 13 years and under, \$2.00 for others. Special events, such as the three winter dances, will be open affairs.

Casualty Hospital, in order to qualify for Medicare funds, says that it has finally abolished segregation by floors in the hospital.

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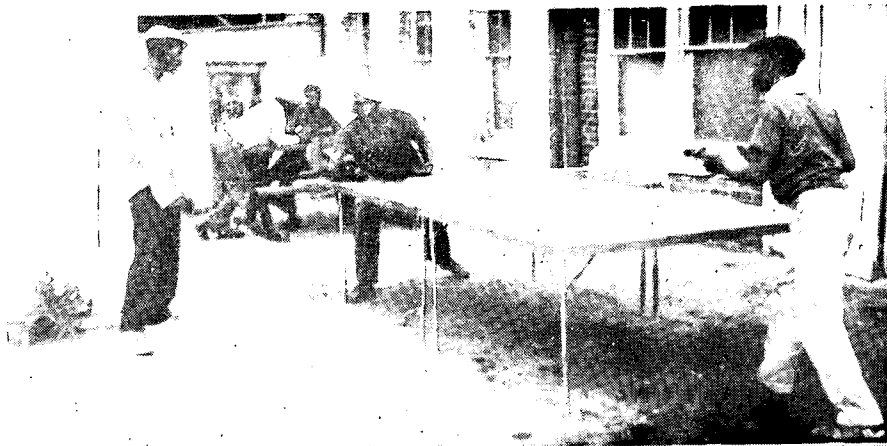
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Members of the Twangers Club play pingpong in alley off 15th and Independence SE. The club also has a basketball court and hopes eventually to provide a sandbox and swingset for their children.

East of the Dome

Bright lights, hot music, and the sound of hundreds of dancing teenagers filled the playgrounds of Watkins and Payne Schools and Arthur Capper Center every other Friday this summer. The Recreation Department call for adult chaperones got wide response from neighborhood volunteers. Arrangements were coordinated by **Hank Pizer**, Asst. Director for Region H of the Recreation Department, and **Thomas G. Smith**. Among those volunteering were **James Beale**, **Mr. and Mrs. Erbin Crowell**, **Mrs. Geraldine Faison**, **Bernice Felder**, **Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Haley**, **Albert Jones**, **Mrs. Warren Lee**, **Mrs. Ethelene Lewis**, **Thomas Mack**, **Edward Miller**, **Warren Morris**, **Mrs. Sarah Montgomery**, **Mrs. Gladys Ross**, **Raymond Smith**, **Gloria Thomas**, **William H. Vines**, **Van Dyke Walker**, **Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Ward**, and **Mrs. Amelia White**.

Circle-on-the-Hill holds its first membership meeting of the new season September 28th at 8 p.m. at Friendship House. The meeting will feature a speaker on Friendship House. Everyone is invited. New officers of the Circle are **Debbie Frum**, President; **Marty Swalm**, Vice President; **Kathy Ross**, Corresponding Secretary; **Sherry Smith**, Recording Secretary; and **Jayne Danielson**, Treasurer.

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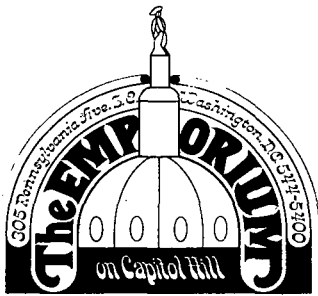
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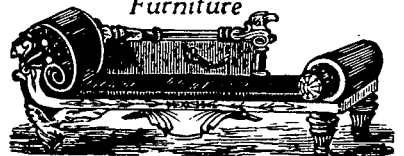
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